

6. Officials placed under suspension :

- (a) Shri Satish Kumar, Tehsildar
- (b) Shri Soran Singh, Tehsildar
- (c) Shri Dinesh Kumar, Tehsildar
- (d) Shri Harshvardhan, Patwari
- (e) Shri Jai Parkash Verma, Kanoongo
- (f) Shri Mahinder Singh, Patwari
- (g) Shri Yog Raj Sharma, Asstt. Director
- (h) Shri Parag, Sectional Officer.

Clean Administration

4987 SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken fresh initiatives in its fight to curb corruption through formulating effective laws, policies and anti-corruption programmes with national and international cooperation,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to enhance transparency and accountability in international business transactions and in public administration; and

(d) whether similar measures being taken in various States, have been reviewed recently for a sharper focus to deal with the problem more effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (d) A conference of Chief Secretaries of States and Union Territories was held on 20.11.1966 to discuss the issues of making administration responsive, accountable and effective, cleansing the civil services and ensuring its adherence to constitutional principles. The Conference recommended, *inter alia*, that :

- (i) The approach to the elimination of corruption in the public service needs to address prevention, surveillance and deterrent prosecution and deal ruthlessly with the nexus between criminals and unscrupulous elements.
- (ii) It is necessary to introduce greater transparency and openness in the functioning of Government and public bodies. This would cover, for example, movement towards a Right to Information Act.
- (iii) Accountability should be interpreted in a larger sense in order to ensure public satisfaction and responsive delivery of services. For this purpose, a phased introduction of Citizens' Charter for as many service institutions as possible could be considered.

The recommendations of the Conference have been given wide publicity and are being followed up within the Central Government and with the State Governments for urgent processing.

Some of the steps initiated by the Government in the recent past are as follows:

- The Lokpal Bill has been introduced in Parliament.
- A Working Group on Right to Information and promotion of open and transparent Government was set up to examine, *inter alia*, the feasibility of right to information and to recommend measures for bringing about greater transparency and openness in functioning of Government agencies.
- The Government has decided to set up computerised facilitation counters near the Reception offices at Government buildings housing various Ministries/Departments.
- Steps have been initiated for formulation of Citizens' Charter by a number of Central Ministries and Departments with public interface.
- The Ministries/ Departments have been requested to review the regulatory and legal framework under their purview to see whether the regulations administered by them are serving the objectives for which they were framed and how these could be made citizen friendly.

Benefits to Beedi Workers

4988 SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether even one fourth of Bidi workers who had been issued identity cards by the Labour Department of Madhya Pradesh, are not getting the benefit thereof;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government and State Governments for providing full benefit of Provident Fund to the Beedi Workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) No Sir. In Madhya Pradesh 6,71,267 beedi workers have been issued identity cards out of an estimated 7,50,000 beedi workers. So far 4,16,628 beedi workers have received various kinds of benefits from the Welfare Fund.

(c) In Madhya Pradesh, 1,53,027 beedi workers have been enrolled as P.F. members. Efforts are under way to increase the membership through inspections/enquiries in collaboration with State Labour Department.

[English]

Charging of interest by D.D.A.

4989. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :
SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority is charging 48 percent interest from the persons who have failed to pay their instalments in time;

(b) if so, the basis of such high rate of interest and whether the rate of interest being charged by the Delhi Development Authority is much higher than that of any other financial institution;

(c) whether any action has been taken by DDA to reduce the rate of interest to a certain extent so as to enable the defaulters to pay their dues;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the prices of DDA flats are increasing day by day;

(f) if so, the reasons thereof;

(g) whether DDA is charging double price as compared to the construction and cost of land;

(h) if so, the reasons therefor;

(i) whether the maximum limit for the interest rate is 24.1 percent whereas DDA is charging 48 percent;

(j) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(k) whether DDA is a "No Loss No Profit" organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (d) The Delhi Development Authority has reported that under the terms and conditions of the allotment letter, if the payment of any monthly instalment is delayed, the allottee is liable to pay the penalty at the rate of 1% per month or Rs. 2/- for the first month of default, 2% per month or Rs. 5/- per month for second month of default & 4% per month or Rs. 10/- per month for the third month of default, whichever is more and so on.

With a view of give relief to the allottees Delhi Development Authority has launched the following hire-purchase penalty relief schemes :

(i) HIRE-PURCHASE PENALTY RELIEF SCHEME-85 :

Under this scheme, relief in penalty was allowed upto 66%.

(ii) HIRE-PURCHASE PENALTY RELIEF SCHEME-96 :

Under this scheme, the relief in penalty was allowed upto 50%

(iii) HIRE-PURCHASE PENALTY RELIEF SCHEME-97 :

Under this acheme, relief in penalty is available upto 43% w.e.f. 1.3.97 to 30.9.97 & 37% w.e.f. 1.10.97 to 31.12.97.

(e) to (j) The Delhi Development Authority has reported that costing of flats is derived of the basis of expenditure incurred on construction, cost of capital invested during construction, over head charges and cost of acquisition and development as per laid down formula which has been upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. At present while finalising the costing of non-SFS flats, the rate of interest charged is @ 15% per annum for the capital invested during the construction, which is at par with N.H.B. lending rate, of interest.

(k) Yes, Sir.

Cleanliness

4990. SHRI JAGMOHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Government departments, such as CPWD, L&DO and Directorate of Estates, have received notices from Delhi Municipal Corporation and New Delhi Municipal Committee for not keeping the areas under their ownership/control in a hygeinic state;

(b) if so, whether it is not a violation of Supreme Court's observations to keep the areas clean; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) C.P.W.D., L&D) and Directorate of Estates have reported that they have not received any notices from M.C.D/N.D.N.C. for not keeping areas under their control in hygienic state.

(b) and (c) Does not arise

[Translation]

Welfare of Agricultural Labourers

4991. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes being considered under Ninth Five Year Plan for the welfare of the Agricultural labourers by the Government and details thereof;

(b) the amount to be allocated for this purpose;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any survey of agricultural labourers, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?